

Reading Guide: Chapters 7-8

1. What is your first clue about Byron's latest misdeed?
2. For what three reasons do Momma and Dad object to Byron's conk?
3. Why do you think Byron keeps doing things that his parents have forbidden?
 - a. How can you relate to this, if so?
4. How does Dad punish Byron for processing his hair?
 - a. Do you think this is fair punishment? Are they "too strict"? Explain your answer.
 - b. Who do you think handles this situation best: Mr. Watson? or Mrs. Watson? Explain.
5. Why do Momma and Dad decide that "this time something's going to be done" about Byron?
6. How does Kenny reveal his admiration for his father?
7. Why does Momma want to break "the spell" cast on the family by the Ultra-Glide?
8. Why do Momma and Dad think Byron needs Grandma Sands and Birmingham?
 - a. Do you think this will help in making Byron behave better? Why or why not?
9. Why do you think Byron doesn't run away after getting caught with the matches and after getting the conk?

Literary Devices:

- I. **Point of View.** Remember that the point of view in a story relates to the perspective from which the story is being told. We've already determined that *The Watsons go to the Birmingham—1963* is told in 1st person point of view (Kenny's view).

Consider Kenny's attitude about the events that took place in Chapter 7. What evidence do we have to suggest that Kenny finds By's situation pretty humorous?

(Point of View continued) How might the scene have been described differently if Byron, Momma, Dad, or Joey were the narrator? What things would have been the same, and what would have been different?

- II. **Cliffhanger** = a cliffhanger in literature is a term borrowed from silent serialized films in which an episode ends at a moment of heightened tension or suspense. In a novel, a cliffhanger is usually placed at the end of a chapter to encourage the reader to continue reading. What is the cliffhanger at the end of **Chapter 7**? What is the TT AB-700?
- III. **Dialogue** = dialogue is the proper term for the conversation between characters in literature. A character's exact words are set off from other text (thoughts or narration, for example) through the use of "quotation marks". Generally, there are 4 reasons authors use dialogue:
- 1) Dialogue reveals what characters are like, because the characters directly state their thoughts and feelings.
 - 2) Dialogue shows how characters interact with one another.
 - 3) Dialogue makes characters come to life, because readers can "hear" them speak using their own words.
 - 4) Dialogue makes a story seem more realistic, because readers feel as if they are eavesdropping on actual conversations.

Choose one of the four purposes listed above and find an example of dialogue in **Chapter 8** chapters that help demonstrate that purpose. Copy the dialogue exactly as it appears in the book then briefly explain *how* it demonstrates the purpose you chose. Provide a page number too.

- IV. **Comic Relief** = a humorous scene placed between serious scenes is called comic relief. This device allows an author to lighten the mood of a novel and to heighten the seriousness of the action by contrast. Find an example of comic relief in **Chapters 7 or 8**.
Page number: _____
Description: _____
- V. **Dramatic Irony** = dramatic irony occurs when the audience knows something that the character(s) in a work of fiction do not know. For example:

"You're going to like Birmingham, Byron. It's a lot different than Flint . . . Things are a lot better there. . . Your grandma tells me it's quiet in our old neighborhood, she says that stuff on TV isn't happening around her. It's just like I remember it being, it's safe, it's quiet."

What do you know about Birmingham that the Watsons do not?